

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFIED UNEMPLOYED WORKERS IN TWO COUNTIES

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, July 11, 2005Unemployed workers in the two counties declared disaster areas due to Hurricane Dennis may be eligible for benefits under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program. The affected counties are Baldwin and Mobile.

“DUA benefits are available to persons who work or live in those counties and became unemployed, or could not engage in their customary self-employment, as a direct result of Hurricane Dennis,” says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

Claims for state unemployment compensation (UC) benefits may be filed beginning Monday, July 11, by calling 1-866-234-5382. Generally, persons who are eligible for state unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA, but the claimant may qualify for DUA if state UC benefits are exhausted. Self-employed individuals will be requested to provide a copy of their 2004 income tax records. **The final date to file a claim in Baldwin County and Mobile County is August 10, 2005.**

DUA services are administered by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations through its network of four Unemployment Compensation Call Centers across the state. Funding is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: www.dir.alabama.gov.